LAKE BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY
FALL 2025

off the SHELF

~~CENSORSHIP~~

is so 1984

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Phyllis Fox Memorial Contest

A LIBRARY FOR EVERYONE

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the heart of every library is the belief that access to information—without barriers—is a foundational freedom. Literacy isn't just about reading books. It's about the power to think critically, to explore new ideas, and to participate fully in our community and democracy.

That's why we are committed to representing a wide range of voices and perspectives in everything we do—from the materials on our shelves to the programs we offer. Everyone deserves to see themselves reflected and to have the opportunity to learn from others' experiences.

We're deeply grateful to our community, the Village of Lake Bluff, and the Lake Bluff History Museum for their continued partnership and support. Their dedication allows us to serve our residents more meaningfully and creatively.

Your voice matters to us. We want to hear what you love, what you need, and what you imagine for your Library. Reach out to me at **nstarosta@lakeblufflibrary.org** —we're listening.

Natalie Starosta
Library Director

~~CENSORSHIP~~ BY THE NUMBERS

In 2024, the American Library Association documented 821 formal challenges to library materials, making it the third highest year on record since 1990. These challenges involved more than 2,400 unique titles, with a majority initiated by organized groups like school boards, elected officials, and advocacy organizations rather than individuals. The top five most challenged books were *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson, *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, and *Tricks* by Ellen Hopkins. These titles were most frequently targeted due to their LGBTQ+ themes, discussions of race and racism, and depictions of social issues. The report underscores the growing threats to diverse voices in literature and the importance of protecting the freedom to read. For more information, visit the Library and pick up a copy of the 2024 ALA Book Report.

Protecting the Freedom to Read R H
10/2 from 6pm – 7:30pm
Learn about the past, present, and future of book bans and censorship in American public libraries and schools. Discover where and how you can make an impact when it comes to turning the tide on literary censorship. Watch from home or join us for a group viewing at the Library. There will be an open discussion from 7pm - 7:30pm for all attendees to ask additional questions of the presenter and Lake Bluff librarians.

Banned Books Week
10/6 - 10/11 | All Ages
Celebrate the freedom to read! Stop by the Library to explore banned and challenged book displays, pick up resources, and enter a raffle to win a Lake Forest Book Store gift card. **#FreePeopleReadFreely**

R = Registration Required V = Virtual H = Hybrid
All programs are in person at the Library unless otherwise stated.

Library Quiztacular R
9/4 from 6pm – 7:30pm | Ages 8+
Come on down to the Library for a family-friendly quiz night! Register your team of up to 4 people and test your library knowledge.

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Spotlight Resource:

Notary Services

Notary services are back! Please check our website to learn more about this great, free service.

Spotlight Neighbor:

Lake Forest Library

A Conversation with William Kent Krueger R
at Gorton, 400 E Illinois Rd, LF
11/2 at 2pm | Adults
Join your friends and neighbors at Gorton for a lively conversation between author William Kent Krueger and Davis Schneiderman. They will discuss Krueger's spellbinding mystery, *A River We Remember*. Set in a small Minnesota town in 1958, this novel is both a masterful portrait of midcentury American life and an unflinching look at the wounds left by the wars we fight abroad and at home. Register at: **LakeForestLibrary.org**

Save the Date:

Winter Open House

12/6 from 2pm – 4pm | All Ages
Celebrate the season at the Library's Winter Open House! Enjoy wintry crafts, chilly games, and a special performance by Miss Katie Sings at 2:30pm. Don't miss the Winter Shuffle Machine—a people-powered prize machine where every spin could land you a fun seasonal surprise! *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Murder and Mayhem: The Mob Series

Chicago's Beer Wars R
9/25 at 6pm
The "American Century" kicks off with an unprecedented event: Prohibition. One man will come to personify not only the era, but organized crime itself. That man was Al Capone. Join Clarence Goodman for part one of a four-part series on the Chicago Mob.

After Capone: The Mob in the Modern Era R
11/6 at 6pm
The Mob moves beyond the shadow of Al Capone, adapting to life after Prohibition and a rapidly changing world. Join Clarence Goodman for part two of a four-part series on this pivotal era in Chicago's organized crime history.

Library Quiztacular R
9/4 from 6pm – 7:30pm
Ages 8+
Come on down to the Library for a family-friendly quiz night! Register your team of up to 4 people and test your library knowledge.

Basic Self-Defense R
9/13 from 11am – 1pm
Ages 12+
Join us for an interactive self-defense workshop. In addition to learning simple self-defense techniques, this training will include age-appropriate discussion of self-defense related topics that encourage attendees to make good decisions, to speak up when something does not seem right, and to use physical techniques only if there is a real threat. A waiver is required for all participants. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Afternoon Book Club R
9/16, 10/21, and 11/18
at 2:30pm
Join Carol at the Library for an insightful monthly book discussion series:

September
The Violin Conspiracy
by Brendan Slocumb
October
The Art Thief
by Michael Finkel
November
Her Hidden Genius
by Marie Benedict

What Is AI Anyway? R V
9/18 from 6pm – 7:30pm
Artificial intelligence (AI) is everywhere in the headlines—but what exactly is it? This program explores what AI is, how it already shows up in everyday life, what it does well (and not so well), and why it's generating both excitement and concern.

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Introduction to Salsa Dancing
10/9 at 6:30pm R
Looking for a fun and healthy activity? Join Desueño Dance to learn Salsa—a vibrant dance known around the world for its energy and rhythm. Let's move and groove together to the beautiful music and steps of Salsa.

Draw-A-Long Animal Workshop R
10/16 at 4pm | Ages 8+
Join artist Lezlie Lenz for a beginner-friendly drawing workshop. Using a simple step-by-step process of shapes and patterns, you'll create and color your own animals. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Swif-Tea Party R
10/23 from 6pm – 7:30pm
Ages 8+
Come enjoy a Taylor Swift-themed tea party at the Library! Meet other Swifties and celebrate your love for all things Taylor. We'll have tea, snacks, games, and bracelets. Dressing up is encouraged!

Tech Time:
iPhone / iPad Basics R
11/14 at 11am
This introductory workshop is ideal for anyone new to Apple iPhones or iPads. Hands-on activities and demonstrations will help you build confidence using devices. Participants are encouraged to bring their own devices to follow along.

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Illinois Libraries Present

Finding the Clues: Then and Now with Steve Burns
9/16 at 7pm R V
Join Illinois Libraries Present for a nostalgic and intimate hour-long conversation with Emmy-nominated actor Steve Burns, best known as 'Steve' from the beloved Nickelodeon show *Blue's Clues*.

Beyond the Screen: A "Wicked" Conversation with Marissa Bode | 10/21 at 7pm R V
Prepare for a magical evening as Illinois Libraries Present welcomes actress Marissa Bode. Bode made her feature film debut as Nessarose in Academy Award-winning blockbuster, *Wicked*, directed by Jon M. Chu.

***These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*

Volunteer at the Library!

Teens can apply to volunteer on the Library's website, and staff will provide a calendar of opportunities. For details, visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/TeenVolunteer**.

Library Quiztacular R
9/4 from 6pm – 7:30pm
Ages 8+
Come on down to the Library for a family-friendly quiz night! Register your team of up to 4 people and test your library knowledge.

Tween Crafts:
Intro to Embroidery R
9/11 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 14
Join craftivist Shannon Downey for a fun and creative 90-minute workshop. All supplies are included!

Basic Self-Defense R
9/13 from 11am – 1pm
Ages 12+
Join us for an interactive self-defense workshop. In addition to learning simple self-defense techniques, this training will include age-appropriate discussion of self-defense related topics that encourage attendees to make good decisions, to speak up when something does not seem right, and to use physical techniques only if there is a real threat. A waiver is required for all participants. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

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Ages 8+
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Thankful Trees
with Art Impact Project R
11/13 from 4pm – 5:30pm
Ages 9 - 18
Studies show that feeling gratitude can improve sleep, mood, and immunity, while decreasing depression and anxiety. Join Art Impact Project for a fun drawing project using brush tip markers, and express what you are thankful for by creating tree-themed art.

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Phyllis Fox Memorial Writing and Bookmark Contest

11/1 - 11/29 | Ages 5 – 13

Sharpen your pencils - it's time for the Lake Bluff Public Library's 39th Annual Writing Contest and the 36th Annual Bookmark Design Contest! Children in grades K - 8 are invited to submit original short stories, poems, or bookmark designs. For full details and submission forms, visit: **LakeBluffLibrary.org/PhyllisFox**.

Submissions are due by November 29

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten R
Ongoing | Ages 0 – 6
Continue reading this fall and track you child's progress in our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. For more information about how to register, visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/1000Books.**

Grab and Go Crafts | Fridays While Supplies Last
Pop into the Library and grab a craft to go! Every week a new craft will be available, while supplies last.

LEGO Drop-In
9/3, 10/1, and 11/5 from 3pm – 5pm | Ages 6 – 11
Drop into the Youth Services Department and play with LEGO bricks!

Library Quiztacular R
9/4 from 6pm – 7:30pm
Ages 8+
Come on down to the Library for a family-friendly quiz night! Register your team of up to 4 people and test your library knowledge.

Messy Crafts
9/6 and 10/4 at 11am
Ages 2 – 12
Bring your kid in for some messy fun at the Library, and we'll handle the clean up! Smaller children will need the help of an adult.

Baby and Me
9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 11/4, 11/11, and 11/18 at 10:30am
Ages 0 – 2 with an adult
Join us with your littlest ones for a relaxed program featuring a short story, age appropriate toys, and music. While the children play and socialize, adults can connect and chat.

Mini Movers
9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20 at 10:30am
Ages 2+ with an adult
Shake your sillies out in this fast-paced, music-filled storytime. We'll explore dramatic movement, musical instruments, and playful language through rhythm and rhyme in this engaging program for active toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.

Tween Crafts: Intro to Embroidery
9/11 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 14 R
Join craftivist Shannon Downey for a fun and creative 90-min-

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ute workshop. All supplies are included!

Sensory Storytime R
9/13, 10/11, and 11/8
at 10:30am
Ages 3+ with an adult
Join us for an inclusive and interactive storytime featuring sensory play, music, and lots of fun! In an effort to respect different sensory sensitivities, space will be limited; however, drop-ins will be accommodated if the session is not full.

Chess Club R
9/16 and 10/21 at 5pm
Ages 6 – 12
Whether you are new to chess, or seeking to hone your techniques, Mark Hamilton will provide chess guidance to help you improve your game.

Beginning Reader Storytime R
9/17, 10/15, and 11/19
at 4:15pm
Ages 4 – 7 with an adult
In this fun family program, we'll work on developing the early literacy skills kids need to become confident readers through stories, games, art, music, and more.

Battle Robots with RoboThink
9/20 from 1pm – 2:30pm R
Attention all warriors and engineers! Build your own battle robot and put it to the test in friendly challenges against other creations. Using RoboThink's exclusive robotics kits and STEM curriculum, participants will enjoy hands-on, interactive activities that make learning fun.

Draw-A-Long
Animal Workshop R
10/16 at 4pm
Ages 8+
Join artist Lezlie Lenz for a beginner-friendly drawing workshop. Using a simple step-by-step process of shapes and patterns, you'll create and color your own animals. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Trunk or Treat R
at Lake Bluff Park District
355 W. Washington Ave., LB
10/17 from 6pm – 7:30pm
All Ages
Join the Library at the Lake Bluff Park District for their annual Trunk or Treat event. Show your Lake Bluff Library support and stop by our trunk! We hope to see you there! Register at:
LakeBluffParks.org

Outdoor Movie Night:
Monsters Inc
at Blair Park
355 W. Washington Ave., LB
10/17 at 7:30pm | All Ages
Get ready for a monstrously fun evening at the Lake Bluff Library and Lake Bluff Park District's free family movie night! Join us at Blair Park Sledding Hill for a creature-feature celebration under the stars, where ghouls of all ages can howl along with the movie—and feel free to bring your own snacks and blankets. *Sponsored by the Friends of Lake Bluff Library.*

K9 Reading Buddies R
10/20 and 11/17 at 4pm
Ages 6 – 11
Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute session and read to a trained therapy dog. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Swif-Tea Party R
10/23 from 6pm – 7:30pm
Ages 8+
Come enjoy a Taylor Swift-themed tea party at the Library! Meet other Swifties and celebrate your love for all things Taylor. We'll have tea, snacks, games, and bracelets. Dressing up is encouraged!

Trick or Treat at the Library
10/27 – 10/31
All Ages
Children, teens, and adults can stop by the Library during the week before Halloween to trick-or-treat. Check in with the friendly staff at the First Floor Circulation Desk to receive a treat. Costumes optional but encouraged!

Thankful Trees
with Art Impact Project R
11/13 from 4pm – 5:30pm
Ages 9 - 18
Studies show that feeling gratitude can improve sleep, mood, and immunity, while decreasing depression and anxiety. Join Art Impact Project for a fun drawing project using brush tip markers, and express what you are thankful for by creating tree-themed art.

CONTACT US

PHONE: 847-234-2540
WEBSITE: LakeBluffLibrary.org
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & YOUTUBE:
@LakeBluffPublicLibrary

ADMINISTRATION

Natalie Starosta, *Library Director*
nstarosta@lakeblufflibrary.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alexandra Friedeman, *President*
Sandy Jardine, *Vice President*
Bonnie Shaul, *Treasurer*
Courtney Heck, *Secretary*
Joseph Kearney
Kathleen Reidy
Brian Sobolak

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held in person at the Library in the Spruth Room and streamed live on Zoom.

Tuesday, 9/16 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, 10/21 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, 11/18 at 7:00pm

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support the Library.

UPCOMING FRIENDS MEETINGS

Saturday, 9/20 at 11:00am
Saturday, 10/18 at 11:00am

STATEMENT ON PROGRAMMING

All Library programs are free of charge and open to everyone. You do not need a Library card to attend a program. Library programs are presented to offer differing viewpoints, and are not intended as endorsement by the Library of views expressed by, or actions suggested by, individual speakers or groups.

PHOTO USE POLICY

The Lake Bluff Public Library reserves the right to use photos and/or audio/video recordings taken at the Library or at a Library-sponsored event for publicity purposes. Please see our Photo Use policy for more information.

Lake Bluff Public Library
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Lake Bluff, IL 60044

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